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To earn photography degrees can be somewhat overwhelming at the beginning. But, we can guide you in turning one of the most important decisions of your life into a sound process.

First to consider is your individual circumstance: what are your passions and talents in photography, your current financial situation, and any educational support you may need? Then, you should compare these to various photography schools to see which match your preferences most closely. The financial costs of a photography school are important aspects to consider, as are the financial aid that may be available for you. For someone with the means, a more expensive school can be an option, many less costly photography schools offer just as high a level of education.

When people think about the best photography schools, most people automatically consider only the most famous, but this isn't always the case. Many smaller and lesser known photography schools offer programs that compare, or sometimes even surpass, with photography programs at larger schools. Smaller schools tend to have smaller class sizes, which mean that students form more tight-knit relationships and also have more opportunities for one-to-one attention from the photography faculty. While many students prefer the busier environments at a larger photography school, other students may thrive in more intimate atmospheres at a smaller school.

We also recommend researching the faculty teaching the photography program and looking into their credentials. Furthermore, if there are many successful photographers amongst the school's alumni, this means the photography program and its staff is likely of top quality. And, when choosing a photography school, check out whether work-study programs, scholarships, or grants are being offered: you will want to apply for those early.

The location of the photography school is yet another important aspect to look at. For one, a photography school further from your home provides the valuable opportunity to broaden your horizons which can be life-changing. But, living farther from where you grew up would mean added costs and difficulty in returning home during holidays and other academic breaks. Staying nearby your family and friends has other benefits as well – the support of friends and inspiration from family has been shown to have a significant impact on a student's success, especially at a competitive photography school. You may also find you want to move to an environment different than that you previously lived in: if you grew up in a more rural, quiet neighborhood, you may prefer going to a photography school in a busier, urban area.

Extracurricular activities and other non-academic considerations are also an integral part of the school selection process. Many photography schools also have community service programs for students to give back to the community while at the same time raising their attractiveness to potential employers. Students who used to be active in sports should also consider choosing a photography school that has numerous athletics programs.

What defines the best graphic school depends entirely on what each particular student thinks is best. Clearly, there is no easy answer for what the best photography schools are.

So, do your research, follow our guide, and take the right step forward in a promising photography career!

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